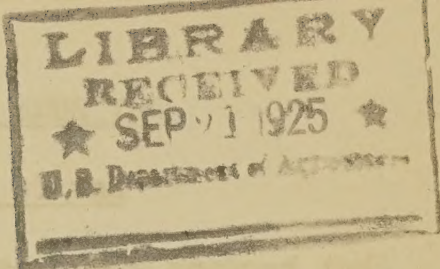


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Extension Service

Office of Exhibits

A Summary of the Exhibit

WHY BURN THE WOODS?

An educational, pictorial booth showing the harmful effects of "greening up" the pastures through light burning, as practiced in the forests of the Coastal Plains region.

Specifications

Floor Space - - - - - 13 ft. 3 in. front
by 9 ft. 7 in. deep.
Wall Space - - - - - None.
Shipping Weight - - - - - 1115 lbs.
Electrical Requirements - 1000 watts A.C. for 1
motor, 12 lamps.

WHY BURN THE WOODS

How It Looks

What happens when the woods are burned? When fire is kept out and the trees and forage are given a chance? The exhibit answers these questions by showing the results on two adjoining areas, divided only by a road and shown alternately by means of a mechanical lighting device.

One area, which has been protected from fire, is covered with young longleaf pine trees 7 to 10 years old and with heavy grass. On the adjoining area, a longleaf stand of about the same age has been damaged by fire - the lower leaves of the trees have been burned and the growth of the trees retarded. The owner has already lost 10 or 15 years growth of the timber. The forage has been injured and his cattle are in poor condition and a low market value.

Three sections of the exhibit show by means of a series of pictures: the effect of fire on young trees, the effect on the forage - poor cattle grazing on wire grass and mature trees killed by annual burning. The pictures on the two wings of the booth are actual photographic reproductions, realistically colored and showing unmistakably the injurious effects of burning the woods.

The booth is 13 ft.3" across the front, 9 ft. 7" deep and 7 ft.8" high.

What It Tells

In the Coastal Plain it has for many years been the custom of the cattle owners to "green up" the range each year for their cattle by burning off the woods. These people have been deceived by the green that showed up shortly after the fire. Only broom sedge and wire grass can survive repeated burning, while the nutritious carpet grass, Bermuda grass, and lespedeza are killed out. Repeated tests show that cattle pass the winters better and get fatter on unburned range. Not only are cattle more profitable on

protected range, but timber growing goes on and creates an additional source of profit from the land. In a few years thinnings return a dividend to the owner, to say nothing of the forage that can be harvested. If the forest is burned every year the trees will die and the land becomes barren.

The South is one of the most prolific timber-producing regions in all the United States. The nation needs the timber which the South can grow. Therefore, this land assumes the aspect of a public resource, rather than a local asset. Its continued productivity is essential to the best development of the whole country.

Timber is increasing rapidly in value as it is being cut out. It will produce more net profit per acre today over much of the South than the scrub cattle. The small trees will be needed to provide houses and fuel for the children of the South as well as timber for the Nation.

Woods fires are wasteful for they

Kill out the pines

Run the game away

Keep the soil poor

Kill carpet grass, Bermuda grass, and

Lespedeza

Where to Get Information

The following publications may be obtained free of charge from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

Farmers' Bulletin - 1117 - Forestry and Farm Income

Farmers' Bulletin - 1177 - Care and Improvement of
Farm Woods

Farmers' Bulletin - 1071 - Making Woodlands Profitable
in the Southern States

Farmers' Bulletin - 1256 - Slash Pine

U.S.D.A. Bulletin - 836 - Forestry Lessons on Home
Woodlands

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